

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6340

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S SPEECH ON
NOVEMBER 17 TO GERMAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE (POLITICAL
ASPECTS)

REF: BONN 17981

SUMMARY: THE POLITICAL PORTION OF GENSCHER'S STATEMENT
WAS LARGELY STANDARD FRG POSITION BUT GENSCHER CAME
DOWN ESPECIALLY HARD AGAINST ANY UNILATERAL US TROOP
REDUCTIONS. END SUMMARY

1. GENSCHER EMPHASIZED THAT "THERE CAN BE NO SECURITY
FOR EUROPE WITHOUT THE MILITARY PRESENCE OF THE UNITED
STATES" AND THAT "THE PRESENCE OF U.S. CONVENTIONAL
AND NUCLEAR FORCES IS THE GUARANTEE OF THE CREDIBILITY OF
THE DETERRENT" ON WHICH THE STRATEGY OF FLEXIBLE
RESPONSE AND FORWARD DEFENSE "STANDS OR FALLS."
GENSCHER DECLARED THAT "WE SEE NO ALTERNATIVE" TO THIS
STRATEGY. "ANY UNILATERAL REDUCTION OF AMERICAN FORCES
WOULD BE A TELLING BLOW TO THAT CONCEPT AND WOULD
EXACERBATE THE MILITARY DISEQUILIBRIUM IN EUROPE." HE
WARNED THAT "THE CONTINUING ARMS BUILD-UP OF THE WARSAW
PACT -- EVEN IN THE AGE OF DETENTE -- IS A PERMANENT
WARNING TO US TO OPPOSE ANY TENDENCY TO WEAKEN THE DE-
FENSE CAPABILITY AND THE COHERENCE OF THE ATLANTIC
ALLIANCE. THE BALANCE OF POWER IS AT PRESENT SLOWLY BUT
SURELY DETERIORATING TO NATO'S DISADVANTAGE. THIS WE
CANNOT ACCEPT." GENSCHER ALSO STRESSED THE CONTRIBUTIONS
WHICH MUST BE MADE BY THE EUROPEAN ALLIES AND SAID THAT
THE EUROPEANS MUST NOT REDUCE THEIR FORCES UNILATERALLY.

2. GENSCHER ALSO ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THE IMPORTANCE OF
EUROPEAN UNIFICATION WHICH HE SAID MUST BE ACHIEVED "IN
FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES." HE ASSESSED POSI-
TIVELY THE "PROGRESS" IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG
AND THE MEMBERS OF THE WARSAW PACT, AT THE SAME TIME
NOTING THAT DETENTE POLICY MUST BE PURSUED REALISTICALLY
AND WITH "A CLEAR PERCEPTION OF WHAT INTERESTS EAST AND
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WEST HAVE IN COMMON AND OF WHERE THOSE INTERESTS DIFFER."
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